

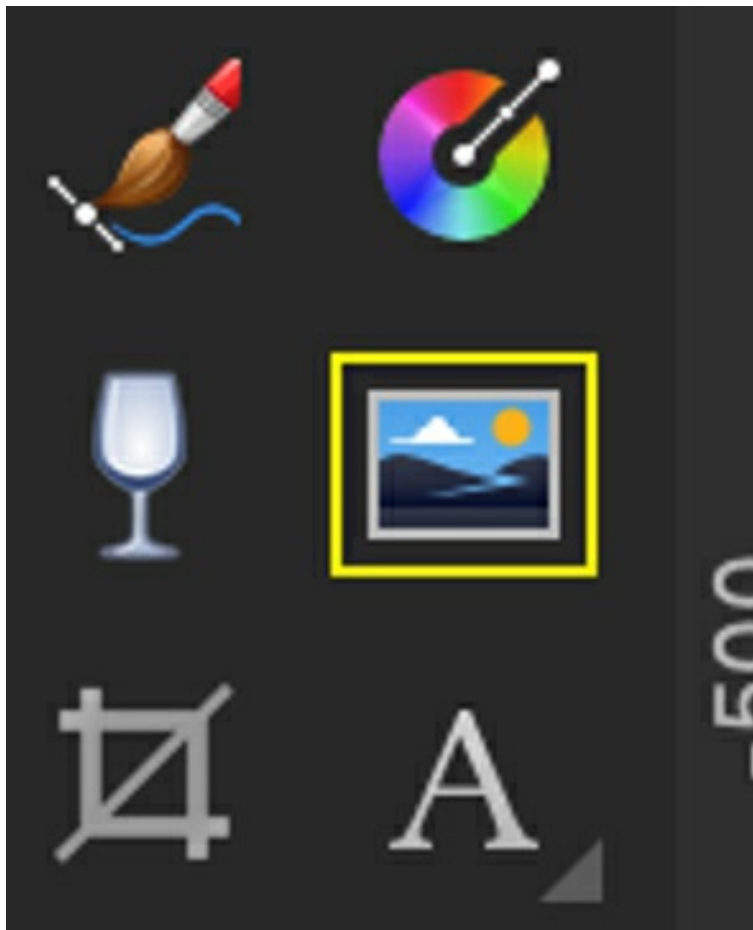
Lesson 11: How Remove the Background from an Image

Create a **New Document** with these specifics (**Ctrl/Cmd+N** is the shortcut):

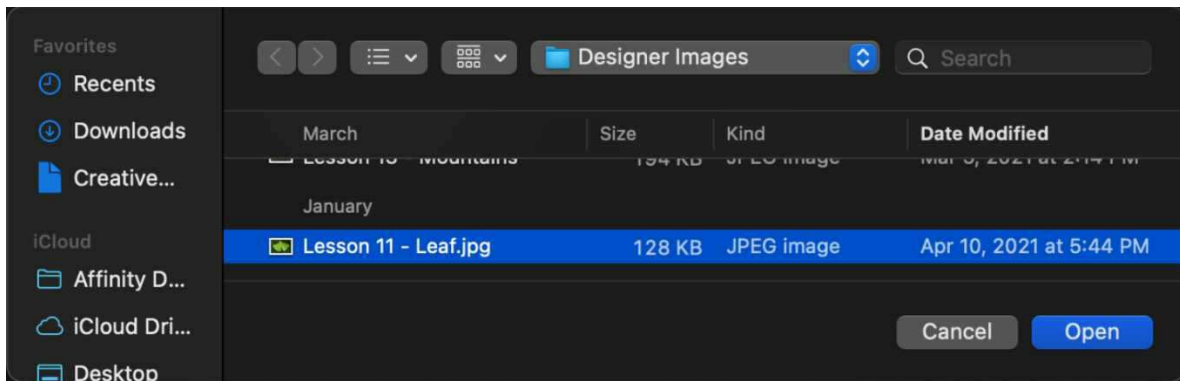
- **Web - CD Cover Digital Release**
- **Transparent Background** (*checked*)

With a new document in front of us, let's start...

Click on the **Place Image Tool** (see the yellow rectangle). When you click on this tool, a pop-out window will appear which you can use to open the Designer Images folder.



Click on the image named **Lesson 11 - Leaf** and then press **Open** (see the green rectangle in the lower right-hand corner).



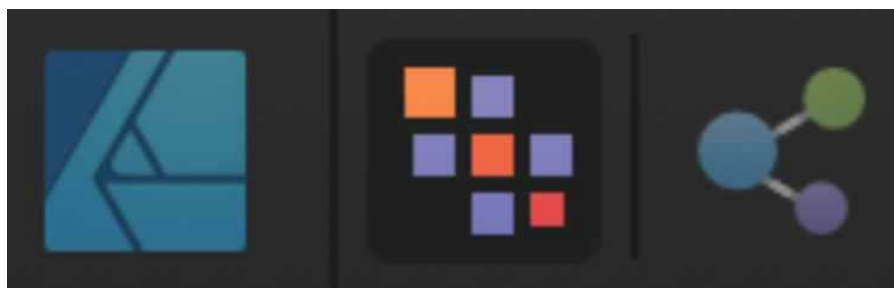
The Place Image Tool has a unique-looking cursor. It looks like a downward pointing arrow pointing at the disc. It looks strange, but it's simply a cursor we'll use to place our image into our document.

Click in the **top-left area** of the document & *drag* out the **Leaf** image onto our document. The image is now placed on top of our document.

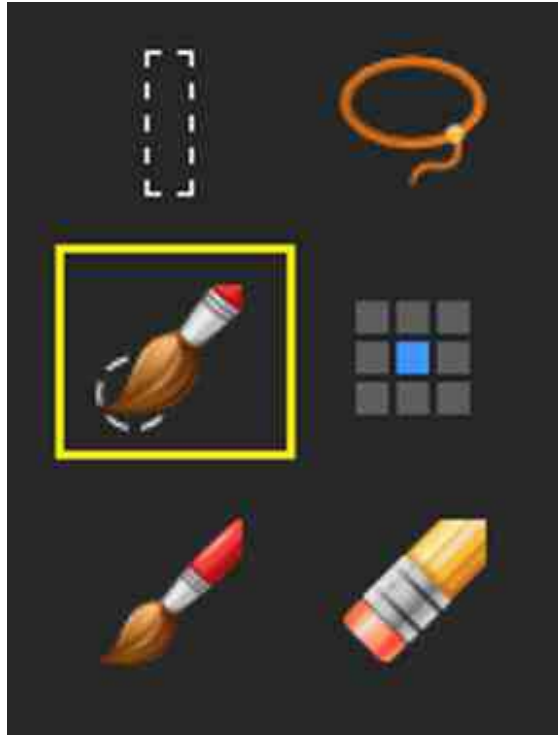
Because this image is a JPEG, we need to change the Persona from the Designer Persona to the Pixel Persona.

Note: The Personas can be thought of as separate workspaces with their own unique tools.

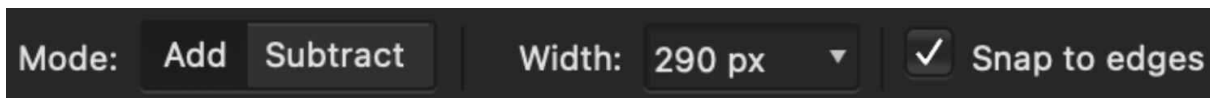
Click on the **Pixel Persona** and watch how Designer's Toolbar & Tools change. They change because they are specific to which Persona is being used.



Go to the vertical **Tools** menu on the left-hand side of the screen and *click* on the **Selection Brush Tool** (see the yellow rectangle).



Once it's activated, look at the Contextual Toolbar and you'll see three options we need to pay special attention to: Mode, Width, Snap to edges. We'll cover each of these options next.



The **Mode** has two options: **Add & Subtract**. Add is used to add more selection dancing ants. Subtract is the opposite. You use Subtract when you've accidentally selected a portion that you hadn't meant to select and want to remove it.

Note: A handy shortcut is the Alt key. It makes the operation you are doing act in reverse. Meaning: If the Mode is set to Add and you see a mistake in the selection, instead of changing the Mode in the Contextual Toolbar, you can more simply hold-down the Alt key and use your mouse click to Subtract the part of the selection you want to remove. This is a very big time-saver shortcut.

Width is the size of the circular brush cursor you'll see once you hover it over the document. You can adjust the Width by clicking on the downward-pointing arrow and adjusting the slider left & right to make the Width greater

or lesser.



Hint: We recommend that you make the Width of the Selection Brush Tool the largest you can while still fitting inside the item you want to select (see the white circle in the below image). This will simplify your selections because you will only need to click & drag the circle in two places (the left side & the right side of this leaf). Or you can click once on the left side of the leaf and again on the right side. The leaf's edges are well-defined, so this two-click action should work.



Snap to edges is a useful tool to activate. It makes the dancing ants stick to the edges of the item in the image you are selecting. It isn't perfect, but generally it does a very good job.

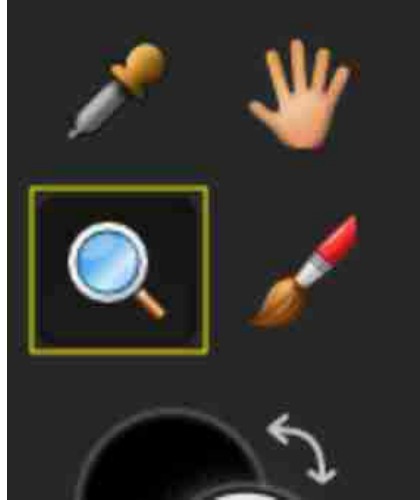
Ready to continue?

Adjust the **Width** of your brush and *paint inside* the **Ginkgo leaf**. As you do this, the inner area where the leaf is split in two will be a problem area. See how the inner area is not selected perfectly (see area inside the yellow rectangle - sorry it's a bit unclear).



We need to zoom into our image so we can make a precise action and correct our selection.

Click on the **Zoom Tool** & press the **mouse button** to **zoom** into our image.

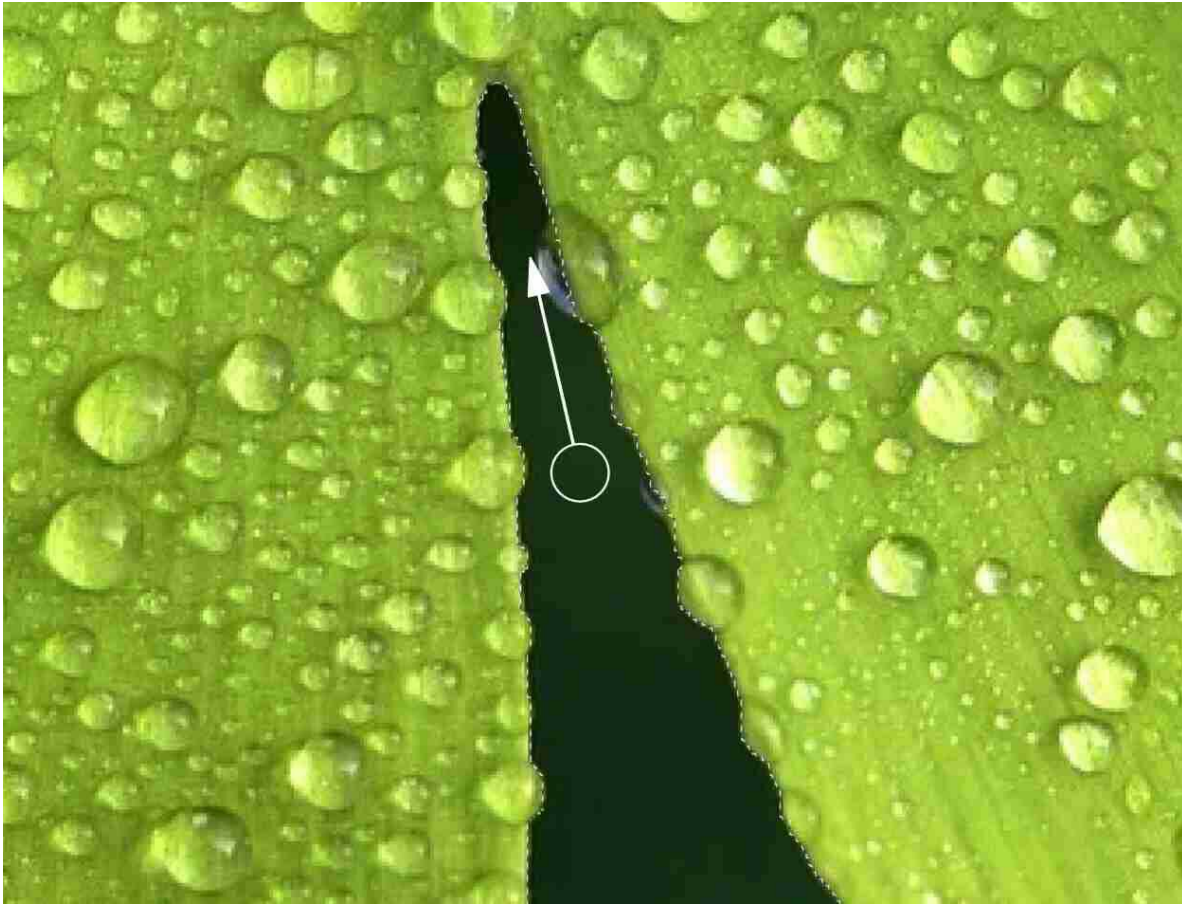


This works because the magnifying cursor has a "+" sign in its middle.

Note: Now is a perfect time to practice using the Alt key. With the Zoom Tool selected, hold-down the Alt key and watch how the "+" symbol changes to "-". Pretty cool, huh?

With the Ginkgo Leaf now zoomed in, we need to adjust the Width of our Selection Brush again.

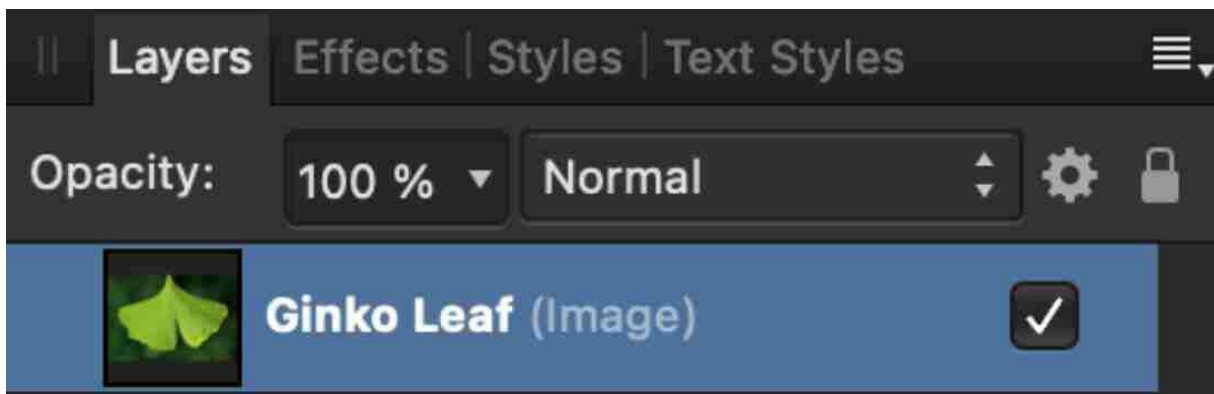
Make your brush the same size as ours (see white circle in the image below). Once you've adjusted the size, *hold-down* the **Alt key** and *click & drag* the **cursor** in the direction of the white arrow. This will cause the dancing ants to attach themselves to the border of the leaf.



Our Ginkgo leaf is now selected, and we are ready to move on to the next step in removing the background.

Press **Ctrl/Cmd+0** (zero) to **center** our document on the canvas.

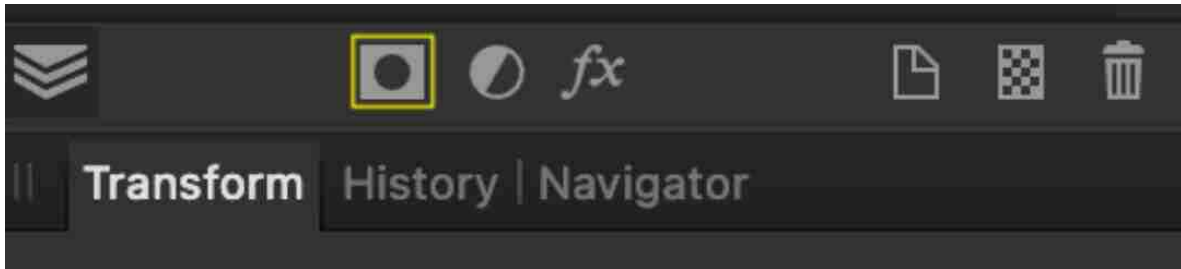
Click on the **Ginkgo Leaf layer** in the Layers Panel so it's active and highlighted in blue.



With this layer active and the selection set around our Ginkgo Leaf, all we

have to do is one more step. This lesson is actually one of the simplest things you can do in Designer.

Go to the **bottom of the Studios area** of the screen (below the Layers Panel) and *click one time* on the **Mask icon** (looks like a Japanese flag).



Immediately after you've clicked on the Mask icon, the background will disappear revealing the transparent background we started with. The Ginkgo Leaf will still be surrounded by the selection we made.

Press **Ctrl/Cmd+D** to *deselect* these dancing ants.

Done. This is our final image:



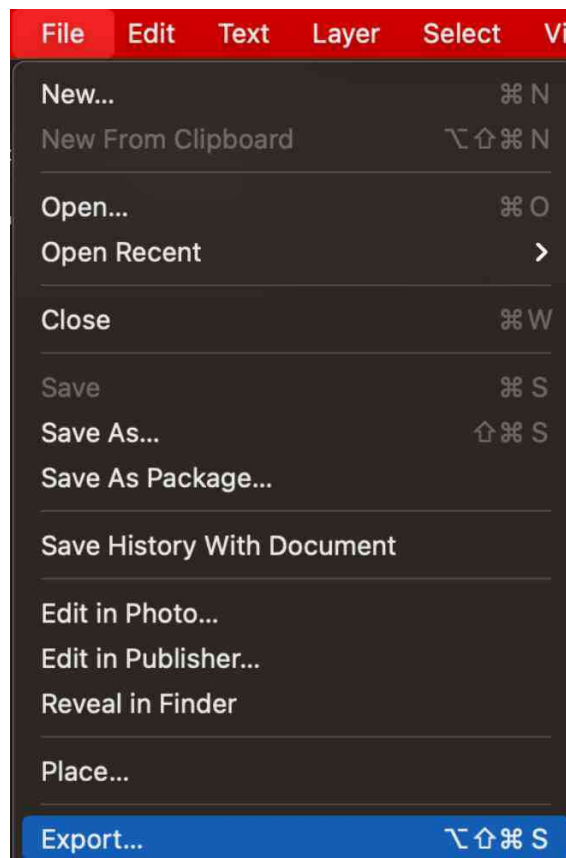
Note: For more difficult cut outs, like images with hair and fur, there's one

step further we'd take and that's to Refine our selection before we press on the Mask icon. We'll use the Refine option when we work on the double exposure effect, so there's no reason to use it here.

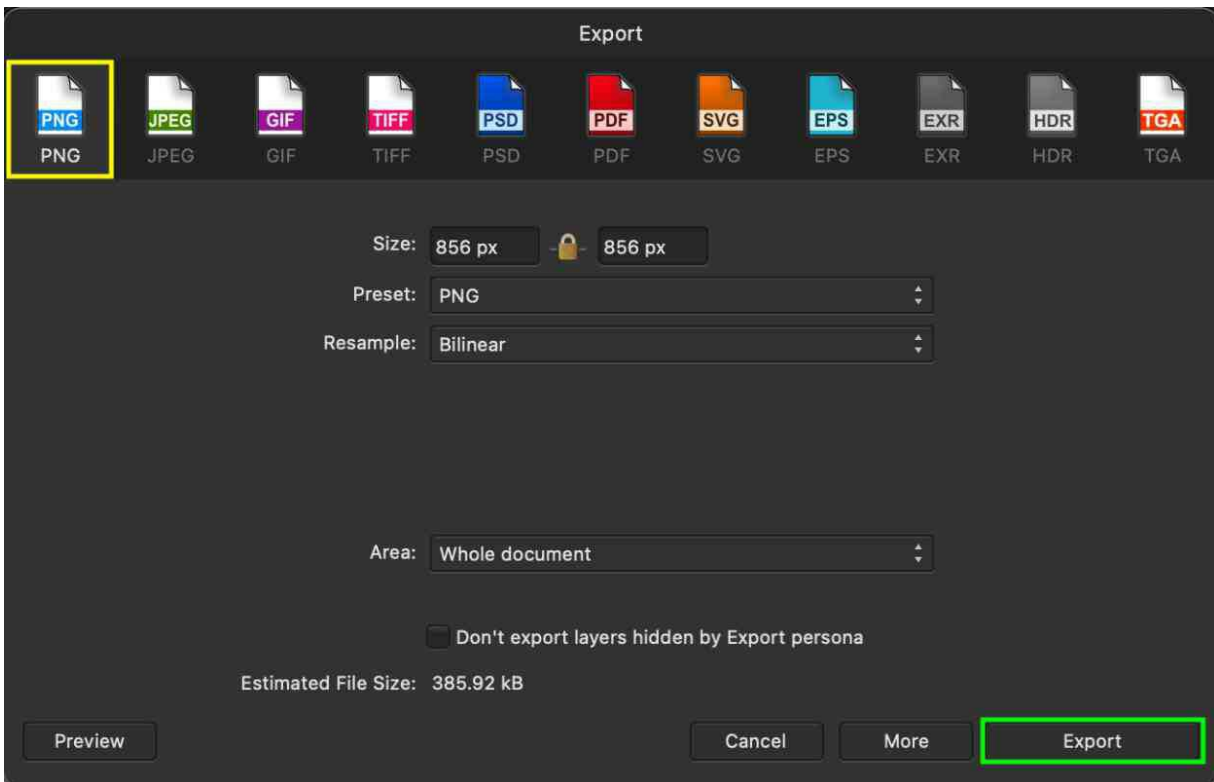
Before we finish this lesson, we need to Export this image as a .PNG file because we want to have it retain its transparency. This means if we copy & paste this cut-out image on top of a new image, then all you'll see is the Ginkgo leaf.

To do this:

Go to the **Menu bar - File** and *click* on **Export...**

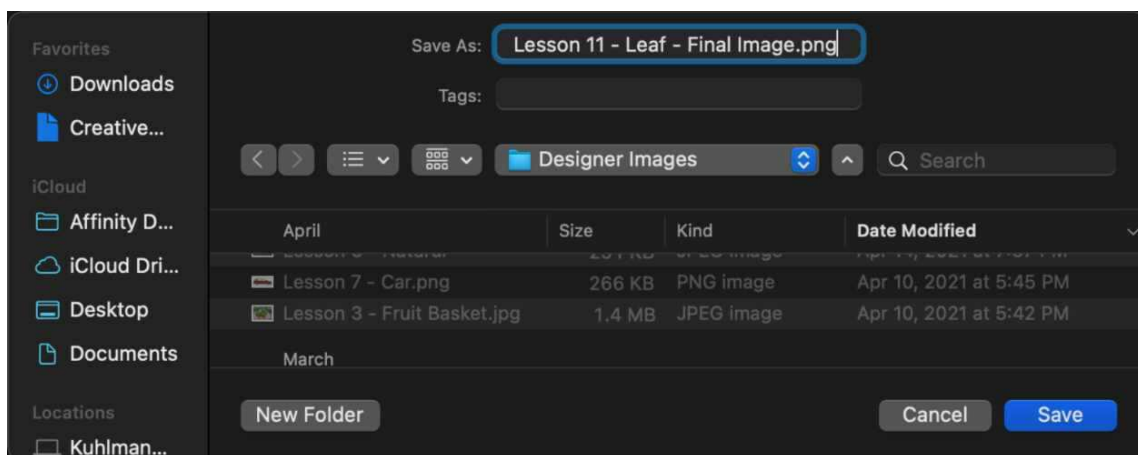


Click on the **PNG** file type (see yellow rectangle in the below image) and then *click* **Export** (see the green rectangle). By now, we've exported enough times that you should be well versed in how to use the Export window.



Choose the **location** you want to save the file at. *Rename* the **image** and press **Save**.

Note: When you create images with a transparent background, it's very important to use the Export... function instead of the Save as... function. When you export it, it's crystal clear that you are saving a PNG file.



Finished. This ends this lesson. You now know how to cut out an object in a photo. Since the new background is transparent, you shouldn't have a problem adding it to a new image, if that's what you want to do.